

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 15-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, and claim 6 is canceled. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for the language added to claim 1 can be found throughout the original specification, for example, in original claim 6 and paragraphs [0027], [0031] and [0034].

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 4-9 and 15-24 contain allowable subject matter.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-3 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,403,510 ("Kuibira"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claim 6. The Patent Office has acknowledged that the subject matter of original claim 6, now incorporated into claim 1, is allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, Kuibira does not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1-3 and 10. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are thus respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5, 7-10 and 15-24 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

Leana Levin

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Leana Levin
Registration No. 51,939

JAO:LL/hs

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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